

Application No.: 09/466947

Case No.: 55288US002

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1 and 17 as follows:

1. A set of articles, each article comprising:
 - a body having an exterior surface with a certain color;
 - a polymer coating extending over the exterior surface, the coating having a color that contrasts with the color of the exterior surface, the coating including a certain region and also a certain area that is spaced from the certain region, the polymer coating presenting a non-laser engraved genus identification mark in the certain area; and
 - a laser engraved identification mark formed within the certain region of the coating, the laser engraved identification mark being a species mark.
17. A method of marking a set of articles comprising the acts of:
 - selecting a polymer coating having a color that contrasts with the color of an exterior surface of each article;
 - applying the coating to a certain region of the exterior surface of each article; and
 - directing a laser beam toward the coating with sufficient power to cause at least a portion of the coating to undergo a chemical reaction and create an identification mark, wherein the act of directing the laser beam toward the coating creates a species mark, and wherein the act of applying the coating to the exterior surface of the article includes the act of creating a non-laser engraved genus mark that is distinct from the species mark.

Please add new claim 32:

32. A method of marking a set of articles according to claim 17 wherein the act of creating the genus mark is carried out for all of the articles in the set before the act of directing a laser beam toward the coating is carried out for any article of the set.

A version marked up to show changes made to the claim(s) relative to the previous version of the claim(s) is attached.